From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: "Walker, John" <WALKERJ@oltmp003.allied.com>
Subject: 5722 Noise tube
Message-ID: <307407CA@tmpgw951.allied.com>

For you fellas that were interested in the 5722 Sylvania noise source tube I found out that Richardson Electronics up in LaFox, IL. (1-800-348-5580) has some stock of them on hand. The going price is $72.60 apiece. Sure a bunch to pay for what's basically a lite bulb but if you gotta have one.....................you gotta have one!!

John H. Walker Jr. walkerj@oltmp003.allied.com
Midwest Vacuum Tube Museum

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Jack Taylor <n7oo@hereford.ampr.org>
Subject: Re: 5722 Noise tube
Message-ID: <199510051731.MAA06264@uro.theporch.com>

At 11:20 AM 10/5/95 -0500, Walker, John wrote:
>
>For you fellas that were interested in the 5722 Sylvania noise source tube I
>found out that Richardson Electronics up in LaFox, IL. (1-800-348-5580) has
>some stock of them on hand. The going price is $72.60 apiece. Sure a bunch
>to pay for what's basically a lite bulb but if you gotta have
>one.....................you gotta have one!!

I have a new (but unboxed) one here, obtained for the purpose of building a noise source. Doubtful that I will. $20 ppd, if anyone is interested.

73 de Jack

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com
Subject: Re: 6 Khz filters for Collins R 390's ?
Message-ID: <9510041800.AA10040@bock.ih.att.com>

For that matter, are there KIWA filters that are suitable for use in an R390A? In terms of impedances and size (nice if one would fit in place of the 8 KC cartridge).

Sounds like others agree that 4 KC is too narrow, and 8 too wide, for AM SWLing. 73, mike k w9nrd

PS: The 4 KC setting on the R392 is nearly ideal, since these cascaded LC bandwidths are actually about 50% wider than nominal.
And of course they don't "ring" harshly, tnx to the gods.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: steve@hi.com (Steve Byan)
Subject: Re: 6 Khz filters for Collins R 390's ?
Message-ID: <v02110101ac998d68268d@[140.243.30.128]>

>For that matter, are there KIWA filters that are suitable for
>use in an R390A? In terms of impedances and size (nice if one would
>fit in place of the 8 KC cartridge).

I think Dallas Lankford has been writing about fitting 6 kHz filters to R390A's in Hollow State News. I think at least one was also reprinted in the IRCA's DX Monitor. I'll check my back issues over the weekend and post a summary back here.

BTW, the new Collin's torsional filters come in 6 kHz bandwidth. Pretty reasonable prices, too.

Regards,
-Steve

Steve Byan   internet: steve@hi.com
Hitachi Computer Products (America), Inc.
1601 Trapelo Road   phone: (617) 890-0444
Waltham, MA 02154   FAX: (617) 890-4998

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: "Robert M. Bratcher Jr." <bratcher@krypton.netropolis.net>
Subject: 807W/5933 questions
Message-ID: <199510051708.RAA13385@krypton.netropolis.net>

I have 2 of these that look brand new. I'm sure it is just a "ruggidized" 807 but what were they used for? How were they different than plain old 807's? Why the 5933 coding under the 807W? Would they put out more RF than a standard 807?

Robert M. Bratcher Jr.
E-mail to:
bratcher@netropolis.net
Beam me up Scotty!

(I'm a real Star Trek fan)
AND one heck of an old radio nut.
Just love those tube type Boatanchors!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: A look in the mirror
Message-ID: <FA5M2650.FA5M2702@mail.admin.wisc.edu>

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

Hello Phil, AB5TH

Re. how Terry & I compensated Vern's family:

Point well taken. For clarification, while the family was still trying to sell the gear, we both bought considerable amounts of it. Between the two of us, we probably dropped a grand or more, and a number of OTHER folks from this group ALSO bought considerable amounts of gear at FAIR MARKET PRICES.

At the time I described in the post, the house and it's contents were no longer the family's property; it had been transferred to the real estate developer. His intention was strictly to clear the site, ignoring the contents.

Re. real estate developers as "scum":

Perhaps I spoke a bit strongly, but this area is currently being ravaged by there folks. Urban sprawl, unnecessary strip malls on top of each other, the destruction of low cost, single family housing in favor of high ticket condos on the lakes, and the stripping of woods / cutting up of farm land for overpriced homes that Malvina Reynolds aptly described as "ticky-tacky" are among the sins of these rabid, would-be land barrons and greedheads.

Locally, this bunch has shown itself to have ethical standards that would shame the proverbial Used Car Salesman, aided and abetted by the weak, stupid, and greedy in Government, right up to the Governor's office.

In the time I've been in Madison I've seen a definite decline in the quality of life. As near as I can tell, behind every aspect of it is a real estate developer.

73's,

Tom, K9TA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>
Subject: Re: An angry message
Message-ID: <9510050630.AA04117@kali>

----- Begin Included Message -----

From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: An angry message

>   For several weeks now there have been numerous postings about the W9MNZ
>estate fiasco here in Wisconsin. Well, we're finally at the last chapter.

Actually, Tom, I don't remember seeing comment about it since your post a while ago describing your foray 1' deep into the dumpster.

>   Vern's relatives have no interest in radio, and they set about to dispose of
>his VERY extensive collection.

I think this is probably a common thing...though radio is in the blood of many Wallace males here, the females could care less and would probably gladly toss a match in their husband's hamshacks when the end comes!

>   Large quantities of hard to find BA rigs went into a dumpster; in fact, the
>dumpster was so full that it was impossible to recover 90% of it's contents.
>What little that WAS salvagable was astonishing.

I told this whole story to a friend of mine. She had an interesting suggestion. How much would it have cost you to buy the dumpster? I mean, take over the cost of disposal, and just have it parked someplace where you could go through it? It would still be a terribly big job....but that would at least let you do it. And I thought this story was long over....one of my suggestions last time was to call some big dealers, whoever you please, and maybe they could take some of the stuff and at least save it from the seagulls. I don't know how plausible this is.

>   In the end, Vern's family gave up on trying to sell his gear, there was just
>too much of it. They had to just walk away, and what's left will go to the land
>fill; the bulldozers roll this week.

I wonder if calling for help on some ham nets would do any good?

>   Clearly, Vern was a Ham's Ham. Because of the greed, stupidity, and shoddy
>ethics of his fellow amateurs, much of the gear that he loved is gone forever.

That sounds like the case. It is a shame. All you BAers can take it as a compliment, but I would surely trust any of you to go over my iron corpses after I'm gone, more than the manager of the local Ham Radio Outlet (whoever he is). I feel that a lot of us have the attributes of the old-time "Elmer," and the fact that a lot of us are 30 and under makes me feel very good indeed.

> A new 3 - 6 MHz Command receiver saw daylight for the first time since the carton was sealed at the Western Electric plant in Chicago back in 1942. Wow.

Wow, indeed. Sigh.

> Later, Terry called out "Got another receiver!", and a new Setchell Carlson BC-1206 (???) long wave range receiver, with manual, popped out of the crawlspace.

I got one of those earlier this year, and thanks to Robert Fowle, an original manual, too.

> I place a LOT of the blame those fellow hams. Rather than help the family inventory the stuff and set up a sale / auction, some saw this as an opportunity to rip them off to get fodder for the next hamfest. They left the place in a horrible mess that made any kind of organized effort impossible, and the family knows it. We hams did ourselves and our image no good at all in this.

Certainly true. I don't suppose anyone could take pictures of the aftermath? Who but ER would publish them? (And I suppose that would speak volumes of the glossy magazines.)

> I was exhausted and discouraged when I got home, but I immediately sat down with Anne. I took out a scratchpad and...

An excellent idea. I have had notions of doing the same thing, if sometime soon the dark beer and pizza kills me. At the very least I was going to put little tags on the power cords of things, saying how much I paid, and when. My family certainly shouldn't accept less. <grin> No, there are no KW-1s here, you can leave the U-Haul at home.

But seriously, a lot of us have things which are unique. If not unique because of rarity, unique because of their meaning to us. Grab a friend and have him videotape you walking around, holding and describing the things you've gathered over the years...

Sigh.

--Andy
wallace@mc.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: bgraham@tecnet1.jcte.jcs.mil
Subject: RE: An angry message
Message-ID: <199510050746.CAA24456@uro.theporch.com>

What a shame!

This reminds me of the first time I was a survivor assistance officer for the family of a GI who had died far away. After seeing the fiasco created by the lack of a will and having to root through shoe boxes (literally) to find inportant records, I went home and got mine in order, showed them to my loving (and radio hating) mate and have tried to keep them up to date since.

I have a household goods inventory that consists (in part) of a notebook with pictures of rooms and their contents with lists of dates/places purchased, prices paid, serial numbers, etc. My ham gear is inlcuded and I add a new picture and record the data whenever I make a significant addition.

This is obviously not something I dreamed up myself but it is pretty easy to maintain and serves the purpose of letting my wife know what I paid for things when I croak as well as providing a record in case of burglary, fire, etc. (I keep it in the office)

I also put a attahcment to my will desribing what I would like her to do with my ham gear, guns, etc. (WA state laws let you do this if it is mentioned in the basic will that it exists). I've told her to offer the items to the local military ham club (first) and the local civ ham club (second) with the provision that they use it for loaner gear or club station gear. If they don't want it on that basis then I tell her to offer it through ER then take the remains to the local fest as my sons have been to fests with me and know the deal.

for whatever it is worth

Bill
N5LMX/DA1WG

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: pmills@cyberhouse.com (Phil Mills)
Subject: Re: An angry message

Message-ID: <199510051241.HAA08831@ns.cyberhouse.com>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this letter points out, the BA bunch is probably a dying breed....younger people just aren't interested. This will also affect future prices of BA parts and gear. Think twice about leaving your spouse with an accounting of what things are worth.....he/she just might be left with a lot of unsold gear because prices and demand have declined considerably over the years elapsed since you made your list.

>Tom I have been thinking of going through and using a video tape recorder
>to say what the items are and about what they are worth and condx. I think
>many of us should do that chore. While I do have a son who is now a ham,
>he is inot into the BA's or even what my parts cabinet is worth. so
>you hv a good point we all should think about. de stan ak0b
>

As to the rest of Tom's e-mail, I don't think it is worthy of this list. How much did he and his pal compensate the family for the magazines and other items they salvaged from the house? I'm not in the real estate business but I think labelling anybody in business as "scummy" because they change land use to something the buying public wants is inappropriate. As to the other hams snapping up bargains and taking advantage of the family's ignorance....well seems to me I just read a BA post about the purchase of a nice BA receiver from an SWL at a bargain price because the SWL did not know that a relatively simple filter capacitor replacement could fix it but the BA buyer did..... Maybe any discussion of ethics should begin by a cold hard look in the mirror.

Face it, people in general take advantage of buying opportunities which generally means that the seller is uneducated in some way about the item being sold or is otherwise at some disadvantage. Further, the demand for (and prices) for BA stuff will eventually decline sharply as us older BA enthusiasts die off.

thanks for your patience,

Phil Mills, AB5TH
pmills@cyberhouse.com
713-482-2763

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995

From: Damon Z Cassell <dcassell@lynx.dac.neu.edu>
Subject: Re: An angry message
Message-ID: <199510051316.JAA29848@lynx.dac.neu.edu>

> Ladies and Gentlemen,
>
> As this letter points out, the BA bunch is probably a dying
> breed....younger people just aren't interested. This will also affect
> future prices of BA parts and gear. Think twice about leaving your
> spouse with an accounting of what things are worth.....he/she just
> might be left with a lot of unsold gear because prices and demand have
> declined considerably over the years elapsed since you made your list.

I read Tom's mail about the Estate Sale From Hell, and was quite saddened. But please don't generalize younger people as indifferent towards BA gear. I'm 19, and a HUGE boatanchor fan. The gear is appealing to me because of it's age, it's affordibility, and it's pleasure to operate.

I think there is also a growing number of younger hams interested in the older gear. The reason: the new gear is just too expensive. Who can spend 2, 3, or 4 thousand bucks on an HF rig? I can't. I think part of the problem is the arrogant middle aged hams who see boatanchors as a money making tool to achieve the ultimate purchase of an FT-1000 or whatever. The hard core DXer types, usually middle aged.

Since I have become interested in boatanchors, several of my friends (all under 30) have also become obsessed. The gear is challenging, relatively cheap (when compared to the ham gear coming out of Japan), and a blast to operate.

I recently decided that I'd like to get my hands on a decent communications receiver...probably one of the new Drake R8A's. I'm also very much into SWL...but this rig is too expensive for me right now. I figured maybe I should sell some of my lesser used gear to finance this $1,000 + dream receiver - and it's not the boatanchors that are going up on the auction block, it's my Icom transceiver...

So before you resign yourself to the sad fact that alot of this gear will go to the dump when we ultimately meet our maker, at least write me into your will...I'll take good care of it all...

(that was a joke, don't take it seriously)

-- Damon

Damon Cassell, WU1T
dcassell@lynx.dac.neu.edu
Starving College Student, Hopeless Boatanchor Collector

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Scgilstrap@aol.com
Subject: Re: An angry message
Message-ID: <951005092848_71155266@emout04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-10-04 21:30:06 EDT, you write:

>   Was Vern himself to blame? Yes, I'm afraid he bears some responsibility
in
>this too.
>
>   We're all afraid to face our own mortality, and we tend to shy away from
>making arrangements for that eventuality. He made it necessary for his
family
>to make some bad decisions by not leaving explicit instructions.

Since the boatanchors list is the only "club" I belong to I told my wife to drop a line to Jack to see if he'd mind giving her a couple of pointers on the best way to unload my gear in the event I get kicked "upstairs". I'd rather give some of you guys a chance at my boatanchors than have a bunch of strangers try to rip off my wife. My kid brother would be broken hearted if I didn't reserve my R390A for him but everything else would be up for grabs. Now I don't plan on going out anytime soon and my collection will keep on growing. So I have to agree that it would be a real shame not to plan ahead and then have our treasures end up in the nearest landfill, with the possible exception of my Knight T-150A transmitter.

73 de Stan   -   WB5LBH

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: afpgreg@state.me.us (Paul V. Gregory)
Subject: Re: An angry message
Message-ID: <199510051401.KAA03753@gatekeeper.ddp.state.me.us>

Ahoy Tom and the rest...

Yes, the situation Tom describes is sad.
But just go to ANY estate auction and wander thru the home; there you'll discover similar footprints of those who go ahead of us. The few times I have, I've inevitably found stuff--tools, dark room supplies,

books--that showed the dearly departed and I had some might special interests in common.

Hey, ol' Vern's not dead yet! Why note drop him a line...or even look him up. Maybe a little boatanchor therapy will bring him some clarity. If only for a moment, it's worth it.

As to the subject of our ethics as boatanchor aficianados and hams, my philosophy is this: if you get that deal of a lifetime somewhere along the way, give one back in kind. It keeps the spirit of the hobby fresh and it recognises that we really don't own this stuff; we just rent it for a while.

--Paul

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: doonan@cordmc.dnet.etn.com (DENNIS DOONAN X6916 (KG9DO))
Subject: Re: An angry message
Message-ID: <9510051357.AA18574@etn.com>

Hello gang,

I did not want to waste bandwidth, but Damon pointed one of the most obvious advantages of BAs--price. In this area, several of the no-code techs have upgraded and want hf rigs they can afford. There is at least 2 Drake 4 lines now back on the air, 3 Swans, and s set each of the old Kenwook and Yeasu twins.

Yes, they take a bit of tinkering to get back on the air, and a bit of tuning when changing bands, but they are a fraction of the price of even a used IC-735.

I've SWLed with BAs for the last 30+ years and know that they do a fine job.

Anyway, hats off to the younger crowd that is taking the time to get BAs back on the air and keeping the knowledge alive. BTW, the same goes to the younger group reviving old tube based test gear. Well done.

73 de Dennis, KG9DO

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: KE8NEfix@aol.com
Subject: Re: An angry message
Message-ID: <951005152516_116975368@emout04.mail.aol.com>

Hi Gang,
I preface a few remarks by quoting from a previous post.

> please don't generalize younger people as indifferent
>towards BA gear. I'm 19, and a HUGE boatanchor fan. The gear is
>appealing to me because of it's age, it's affordibility, and it's
>pleasure to operate.

There are those here that seem to think that no one under the age of forty wants anything to do with older gear or technology. That is far from the truth as the above points out. The same is true of the Antique radio hobby. There are many skeptics out there that feel they and one or two others are the only people who appreciate what they have. That is also a fallacy. Just because there doesn't seem to you to be any interest in what you like, would seem to indicate one thing: You are not expressing yourself on the subject. People under 25 may never seen anything like what you have. History can be very interesting, when presented right.. So get your family involved, somehow, at least. Around here there is a large following of young people interested in older gear because there is something they can do with it! So igf the old stuff seems to be dying around you,
try breathing some life into it!

kIM

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: FRANCIS4@AppleLink.Apple.COM (Francis, Dexter)
Subject: BA Patents & Copyrights
Message-ID: <812918627.1496277@AppleLink.Apple.COM>

Charlie asked if anyone here was a copyright/patent attorney. The current name for this legal nitch is "intellectual property" and let me tell you, it's a quagmire. (I hold two patents and one registerd copyright.)

I have in my library a copy of a book entitled "Patent Notes for Engineers", by C.D. Tuska and published by RCA. This book was published to inform RCA engineers of the vagaries and insultations of patent law as practised in the USA and in particular with respect to work done for RCA. It starts out by observing that the law and congress has defined "Invention" by what it's NOT as opposed to what it IS and lists 14 negative "rules": that govern what invention isn't. Scattered among the pages are a number of examples, including Edison's hotly disputed patent for the electric lightbulb. It's a fascinating read and only serves to highlight how slippery this subject is.

The chances are that reproduction of BA components will not violate any patents. Even if you chose to replicate a particular radio, that would not necessarily violate an existing patent. Note that a patent is generally issued for 17 years, and therefore most BA related patents have probably expired long ago and/or the patent holder is probably no longer in business. For a patent to be in force the maintenance fees need to be paid and defunct companies don't do that very often.

Copyright pertains to the unauthorised reproduction of various works that have been recorded in some permanent form (paper/film/magnetic/whatever). Unless you are planning to sell copies of all or part of a copyrighted manual, you probably don't have anything to worry about here.

Of course, a chat with a HAM who's also a good IP attorney wouldn't hurt.
(I could provide some referrals if needed.)

-df

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: okasb@shoe.mtv.gtegsc.com (Bob Okas)
Subject: BA's to aging children come {pardon me Joni]
Message-ID: <9510052328.AA11450@shoe.mtv.gtegsc.com>

Well,
I'm under 40 (barely) and I have fond memories as well. I found out about transmitters by repairing a fried 6146 cathode resistor in a DX-60 back in '73. I first had to determine why the meter would peg when reading plate current. Having fixed that and not being licensed at the time, I had to satisfy myself by transmitting into a 75 Watt bulb (mostly). Found out about RF burns with that rig too. Youch!

Now, I'm ankle deep in BA's that keep finding my soft spot. Enjoyment comes in two flavors: 1) Operating these fine veterans; and 2) Finding grungy puppies and grooming them back to their original state. The latter is especially sweet.

Bob - N3MBY

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Neal McEwen <nmcewen@metronet.com>
Subject: BAers at AWA/VRPS meet in Dallas
Message-ID: <199510052357.AA19632@metronet.com>

I would like to meet any BAers who are going to the AWA / VRPS meet in Dallas later this month. We could have a serious sidebar or get seating together at the Sat. nite banquet. What say OMs ?

--

```
73 de K5RW      - Neal McEwen                     - Richardson, TX (Dallas)
  ******** I collect old telgraph and wireless telegraph keys  *********
HomeNet         - nmcewen@metronet.com            - OS/2 tcp/ip SLIP
HomePage        - http://fohnix.metronet.com/~nmcewen/techno_weenies.html
```

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Philip Gwyinne McCoy <dgnova@eng.umd.edu>
Subject: BC-923
Message-ID: <199510051714.NAA06275@cappuccino.eng.umd.edu>

>From Phil W3SAK
Subject: BC-923

I have the manual for this receiver. My e-mail address is
dgnova@glue.umd.edu. My telephone number is 301-942-4212

>Reply-To: Jodaanve@aol.com
>From: Jodaanve@aol.com
>Subject: BC-923/A info.

>I ran across a gentleman locally who is looking for information, schematic,
>tech
>manual, etc. that will help him restore a BC-923-A. He also has a R-11A
>He doesn't have internet access, so please send your responses via e-mail to:
>Jodaanve@AOL.com, include your land line # if possible, so that he can
>contact you directly.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: SKIPPERM@MTC1.MID.TEC.SC.US
Subject: Book
Message-ID: <951005174934.20401575@MTC1.MID.TEC.SC.US>

I've seen several references to a book by Moore(?) on the list lately.
Is this a guide to old communications or amateur radio receivers? If so
where can I obtain a copy?

thanks
Skip KE4DFY
email skipperm@mtc.mid.tec.sc.us

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>
Subject: Re: copyrights & patents
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951005063333.28281A-100000@crl9.crl.com>

Hi Charlie,

First I am NOT an attorney. I do have several patents and copyrights.

I develop new products for various firms on a consulting basis. I am often called into a firm with an idea for a new product that want to mfr and market. Note I said IDEA. Not necessarily a NEW IDEA.

Around the nation there are several major libraries that have on file every patent ever issued up to within the past three or six months. If you have what you consider an orginal idea I urge you to use them to check. You will find them willing to teach you how to use the system.

I have found that many people reinvent products. I have seen requests for new products that were well over 30 years old. So it is worth a check.

After you have looked then contact a PATENT lawyer. You will find some of them are mechanical engineers and some electrical engineers. Get the right type. Ask up front what the costs will be.. Expect to spend about $500 for a search and most patents will run about $5000 with the fees, etc.

Do not be surprised when you find your idea has already been patented.

i.e. I have been approaced by several firms and individuals in the past 15 years with what they consider orginial secret new products. These are the two most common.

1) Squealer - A photo-cell activated device to make a noise. It will stop fat people from raiding the refrigerator and save the baby from getting into the dangerous chemicals under the sink. Neat but not new.

2) LED display to go in the back window of your car so you can send various messages to others on the highway.

P.S. A lawyer will not charge you for taling with you and telling how he charges for his services. At least a good one will not..

de stan ak0b
e-mail via randyw@crl.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: "Robert M. Bratcher Jr." <bratcher@krypton.netropolis.net>
Subject: Disposing of BA's after death
Message-ID: <199510051521.PAA10424@krypton.netropolis.net>

I wrote my will out 2 years ago. I'm 36 now and still unmarried however all my BA collection will go to the Houston Vintage Radio Assocation and the Dallas Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society. I don't have as much as this fellow we read about does however I do have my share. Why am I leaving it all to a pair of antique radio clubs? Well these people like the old radio's and have done really good jobs of disposing of radio collections in estates. My family of course has no interest in my my radio hobby. I'm sure most of you are in the same boat!

Robert M. Bratcher Jr.
E-mail to:
bratcher@netropolis.net
Beam me up Scotty!
(I'm a real Star Trek fan)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: pbock@melpar.esys.com (Paul H. Bock)
Subject: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <9510051531.AA28215@syseng1.se.melpar.esys.com>

Does anyone know what Edison Battery Oil is? I'm picking up two unopened bottles of the stuff today from my brother, who got it as part of a lot of antiques he bid on at an auction. He sez the bottles are about 3" high, the tops are crimped on (a la Coke bottle), and the liquid inside looks like - well, some kind of light oil.

Anyone familiar with it?

73,

Paul, K4MSG

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: rdkeys@unity.ncsu.edu
Subject: Re: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <199510051604.MAA17653@cc05du.unity.ncsu.edu>

> Does anyone know what Edison Battery Oil is? I'm picking up two unopened bottles of the stuff today from my brother, who got it as part of a lot of antiques he bid on at an auction. He sez the bottles are about 3" high, the tops are crimped on (a la Coke bottle), and the liquid inside looks like - well, some kind of light oil.
>
> Anyone familiar with it?
>
> 73,
> Paul, K4MSG

I can't resist this one.....Snake Oil, anyone?????.....(:+}}.....

It is a light oil used to float on the top of the electrolyte in edison cells. The last edison cells made (my wet nicads from about 10 years ago) use that to keep evaporation of electrolyte to a minimum.

It is used mainly in industrial battery installations where wet nicads or wet nickle-iron-alkaline cells are used.

If the stuff is still in use as of 10 years back, then I would not consider it to be antique, unless your bottles are particularly old.

I am not exactly sure of its makeup, but I thought I have read that it is just plain mineral oil. Whether or not any additives were put into it or it was just hype and market savvy, I dunno. It would have been an excellent way to sell cheap oil with the house name on it for exotic prices, not uncommon it the battery circles, and elsewhere. (Remember snake oil?????)

The stuff floating in my wet nicads have been fine for the 10 years that I have had them. Supposedly it is replaced when the electrolyte is renewed (after every 15 years of service). If that is the case, then I may need to find some 5 or so years down the road, as well as caustic potash with a trace of lithium for the electrolyte. One gets VERY strange looks when one goes to a battery place and requests 10 gallons of battery BASE......(:+}}...... as opposed to battery acid. Sales clerks barf their toenails at that one, as well as oil for your battery.....(:+}}.....

Good Luck, and keep me posted as to what you find out.

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob
rdkeys@unity.ncsu.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: "Gable, Edward M" <emg@rfpo2.rfc.comm.harris.com>
Subject: RE: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <30740604@smtpgate.rfc.comm.harris.com>

Does anyone know what Edison Battery Oil is?
73, Paul, K4MSG
+++++++++++++
I have two (empty) Edison Battery Oil bottles and

```
was told that they contained battery ACID to rejuvinate
Edison Wet Cells such as used on telegraph circuits
and the like.   The term Battery Oil was coined as a
marketing tool as people were afraid of using acid.
Today you would go to jail for doing that !
Ed K2MP @ Rochester
emg@rfc.comm.harris.com




From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct  5 15:58:00 1995
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Re: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <199510051633.JAA16272@hobbes.UCSC.EDU>

My guess is: Edison cells are iron-nickel storage batteries with a sodium
hydroxide electrolyte (or maybe it's potassium, or maybe a mixture of both).
So you might pour a little oil in the tops of them to keep the water from
evaporating.

I've seen in telephone offices, they use lead-acid storage batteries and
I don't recall seeing oil on top of the water in those, but they also use
counter-EMF cells.  These things have nickel plates and a sodium hydroxide
electrolyte and what they do is provide a voltage drop that's fairly constant.
So when current is passing through them they get all bubbly inside.  There
is a layer of light mineral oil on top of the electrolyte to prevent
evaporation.


From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct  5 15:58:00 1995
From: "Gable, Edward M" <emg@rfpo2.rfc.comm.harris.com>
Subject: Re: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <30740B08@smtpgate.rfc.comm.harris.com>



>      Does anyone know what Edison Battery Oil is?  I'm picking up

>It is a light oil used to float on the top of the electrolyte in
>edison cells.
<SNIP>
++++++Veeeery  interesting, I like this version better than
               my Battery Acid story heard  years ago.

>If the stuff is still in use as of 10 years back, then I would not
>consider it to be antique, unless your bottles are particularly old.
<SNIP>
```

+++++++The bottles I have are very old and are signed by
Thomas A. Edison in long script.   (Signed on bottles
means etched, stamped or molded into the glass)
So I think they are quite old.   Anyone know ?

>73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob
>dkeys@unity.ncsu.edu

Regards, Ed K2MP @ Rochester
emg@rfc.comm.harris.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: pbock@melpar.esys.com (Paul H. Bock)
Subject: RE: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <9510051708.AA00441@syseng1.se.melpar.esys.com>

>>Does anyone know what Edison Battery Oil is?
>>73, Paul, K4MSG

>I have two (empty) Edison Battery Oil bottles and
>was told that they contained battery ACID to rejuvinate
>Edison Wet Cells such as used on telegraph circuits
>and the like.   The term Battery Oil was coined as a
>marketing tool as people were afraid of using acid.

Ed, based on what others have said and on the fact that an Edison
cell uses an *alkaline* electrolyte, I would say that whoever
told you that either made it up because they didn't know, or were
propagating an "old telegraphers' tale."

Ya don't wanta be pouring no acid into an alkaline cell.....

73,

Paul, K4MSG

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: rdkeys@unity.ncsu.edu
Subject: Re: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <199510051855.OAA00284@cc05du.unity.ncsu.edu>

>
> >>Does anyone know what Edison Battery Oil is?
> >>73, Paul, K4MSG
>
> >I have two (empty) Edison Battery Oil bottles and
> >was told that they contained battery ACID to rejuvinate
> >Edison Wet Cells such as used on telegraph circuits
> >and the like.   The term Battery Oil was coined as a
> >marketing tool as people were afraid of using acid.
>
> Ed, based on what others have said and on the fact that an Edison
> cell uses an *alkaline* electrolyte, I would say that whoever
> told you that either made it up because they didn't know, or were
> propagating an "old telegraphers' tale."
>
>   Ya don't wanta be pouring no acid into an alkaline cell.....

This is very true. Chemically it is a disaster on batteries to mix the acid and base in one cell. It kills the cell dead as a doornail.

As to whether or not there were marketing ploys on the ``edison oil'', I dunno for sure, but have heard several different things over the years.

I remember reading somewhere that there were additives that could be put into a battery in which the electrolyte was aging, to boost it along for a while longer. It might be that the bottles contain some lithium hydroxide (saturated aq.) that could be used to spike the battery, but I would be suspicious of this, since the amount required to rejuvinate a battery would be more than the several ounces in the bottle. Typically, a good sized cell would contain one to several gallons of electrolyte. The 3 oz bottle could not be concentrated enough and still be liquid to make it work as a rejuvenant on all but the smallest sized cells.

I have also heard, but have not been able to confirm, that there was indeed a marketing ploy by Edison to get people used to putting the ``right kind of acid'' into their batteries by using edison oil (battery base).  I have heard this several times, but can find  no concrete source, but it is an interesting proposition.  It would help to eliminate confusion on edison cells if you just rememberd to reach for ``edison's oil'' only, rather than the sulphuric acid of normal batteries. Remember, old batteries used to be shipped dry, without electrolyte, and need to be filled by the mechanics before use. What a disaster that could be to put the wrong kind of electrolyte in. Sounds like the general public of today, still.....

But, these two possiblities seem more unlikely that reality. Hence, I would still favor the stuff being just the anti-evaporative overlayer oil (mineral oil). The overlayer was/is quite commonly used in all industrial base electrolyte cells. When I got my edison cells (big muthas of 105ah per cell that are actually wet nicads of edison's last production here in North Carolina before the plant went belly up), I did not know much about base electrolyte batteries and went to the stacks to find out what I could. There are several classic battery books of the 30's through the 60's that would make good reading for anyone interested in these large nicad or iron-alkaline cells. They make fabulous cells to run even the biggest 28volt boatanchor dynamotor rigs. I was quite fortunate to get hold of 36 volts worth (30 cells) for about $2/cell. They require some care and feeding to keep them up, but should last an easy 30 years before going south. Real Edison nickle-iron-alkaline cells were guaranteed to last 100 years. These far exeed the generic lead-acid junk on the market. The only problem is that the nicad or nickel-iron-alkaline cells cost new about 50-100 bucks per cell. If you need 12 volts that is 10 cells or 500 bucks for the battery. Not cheap.

I would easily be very tempted by anyone wanting to part with any of the classic edison cells used on farms in the 32v lighting systems of the 20's and 30's. 15 years ago, there was still a fellow written up in the local newspapers in Iowa running his entire farm operation on these classic edison cells. He bartered and traded enough to get a garage full and then got off the power grid forever.

My experiences with these, and that ol' man's testify to the value of these strange and exotic battery cells.

BUT, do be careful if you ever want to use them. And read up on their proper use. The are all adequately covered in the classic radio manuals such as Sterlings ``Radio Manual'' or Nilsohn and Hornungs books, or Ghirardi's books, etc.

Also, edison cells outgas at all times, so they need adequate ventilation. Wet nicads of the sealed popper cap type can be used indoors if the room is mildly ventilated (such as normal air movement due to air conditioning). Just remember not to overcharge them. Edison cells can't be overcharged.

For my money, I would take real edison cells over anything else. Why did they find use for so many years abord all the radio installations of commercial maritime radio? Why --- because they were the best batteries that could be obtained for radio use. Even junk, they still are!

> 73,
> Paul, K4MSG

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob

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From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct  6 00:39:00 1995
From: Norm Flasch <flasch@cushy.eecs.nwu.edu>
Subject: Re: Edison Battery Oil
Message-ID: <199510052127.QAA23958@cushy.eecs.nwu.edu>

>
> I would easily be very tempted by anyone wanting to part with any of the
> classic edison cells used on farms in the 32v lighting systems of the
> 20's and 30's.  15 years ago, there was still a fellow written up in
> the local newspapers in Iowa running his entire farm operation on these
> classic edison cells.  He bartered and traded enough to get a garage
> full and then got off the power grid forever.
>
> > 73,
> > Paul, K4MSG
>
> 73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob
>
Interesting thread.  Last year I purchased a lighted (Westinghouse, I
think) lamp tester at an estate sale.  It tests both 32 and 110 volt
lamps.  I wondered where 32 volt lamps were used.  I believe it also says
"mazda" lamps on it.  This probably came from a hardware store as there
were hardware store related items in the basement of this house.
--
Norm Flasch          flasch@eecs.nwu.edu            Northwestern University
          Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
```

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From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct  6 00:39:00 1995
From: Neal McEwen <nmcewen@metronet.com>
Subject: Edison Oil and telegraph power
Message-ID: <199510060009.AA21874@metronet.com>

In my hunt for the elusive key, I uncovered a bunch of gravity cell coppers.
Later in the hunt, I found two "crows feet".  So now I have what I need
to make a cell except the jar itself.  I would be willing to let go a set
of electrodes ( copper and crows feet ) for a jar.  Perhaps there is someone
out there who has a jar and no electrodes.

The old time telegraphers around here have related stories about bringing
up the gravity cells and part of the procedure was to cover the electrolyte
with the "oil" to prevent evaporation.  They also explained that the batteries
were most often in a large battery room.  The fellow who explained this to
me would be 91 now.
--

73 de K5RW     - Neal McEwen                    - Richardson, TX (Dallas)
  ******** I collect old telgraph and wireless telegraph keys  *********
```

HomeNet - nmcewen@metronet.com - OS/2 tcp/ip SLIP
HomePage - http://fohnix.metronet.com/~nmcewen/techno_weenies.html

---

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: w7ni@teleport.com (Stan Griffiths)
Subject: Eico Probes
Message-ID: <199510050651.XAA23050@desiree.teleport.com>

Bought a box of stuff at an auction over the weekend and found two Eico scope probes in it. The look in perfect shape but I can't test them because I don't have an Eico scope to put them on. I could probably figure out how to connect them to a Tek scope but I am just not that interested. The two probes are like new and are not the same as each other.

1) About 4 feet of light gray coax cable with two banana jacks on the scope end. The probe end is a black plastic cylinder about 5 inches long and 5/8 inches in diameter. In dark green paint on the cylinder is "Scope Demodulator" and "EICO".

2) Also about 4 feet of light grey coax cable with two banana jacks on the scope end a black plastic cylinder on the scope end, 5" long, 5/8" diameter. Dark red lettering says "Scope Low Capacity" and "EICO".

These may not be all that old. I just haven't kept up with EICO scope probe evolution.

I estimate shipping at $3 and will accept the best offer over that which I see by the end of October 15. I will inform the lucky winner.

Stan W7NI@teleport.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Neal McEwen <nmcewen@metronet.com>
Subject: Foothills Museum open times ?
Message-ID: <199510052343.AA16762@metronet.com>

I will be in the San Jose area next week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. One of my stops is about 10 miles from Los Gatos. If the Foothills Mueseum were open on Saturday, I would delay my return and re-visit all those DeForest goodies I say about 7 or 8 years ago. Anyone out in the Bay area now the hours of operation ? Any BAers that would like to show off their goodies out there. I'm flying, so I couldn't talk anyone out of a BA ;-)

```
--

73 de K5RW     - Neal McEwen                    - Richardson, TX (Dallas)
  ******** I collect old telgraph and wireless telegraph keys  *********
HomeNet        - nmcewen@metronet.com           - OS/2 tcp/ip SLIP
HomePage       - http://fohnix.metronet.com/~nmcewen/techno_weenies.html
```

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: paul Veltman <veltman@netcom.com>
Subject: Re: Foothills Museum open times ?
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9510051756.A19735-0100000@netcom13>

Neal,
Sorry to say that, as far as I know, the Foothill College Radio Museum is
history. I think that the foundation that runs it is still going, and
may be looking for a new location as we speak. I believe that their
collection has been preserved and is in storage. Maybe someone more familiar
with these people can fill in details.

73

Paul WA6OKQ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: "James C. Owen, III" <owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>
Subject: RE: GEL Cell Charging Help?
Message-ID: <58140.owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>

In message Thu, 5 Oct 1995 14:55:49 EDT,
  "michael w.m. babineau" <babineau@bnr.ca> writes:

instructions are very terse and I'm wondering

> instructions say that initial charge using an optional AC/12V adaptor
> should be about 14-16 HRS (absolute max 20) and after that a charge
> should take about 8 hours. I have been using a 1.5 12V AC adaptor that
> I bought at Radio Shack to try to charge this thing. I verfied the
> polarity between the adaptor and the battery, I verified that the adaptor
> is putting out 12V and I verified that the battery seems to think it is
> being charged (charging LED lights up). But, even after 16-20 hours on
> the charger it still shows up as being low (about 9V).
>

The GelCell is a lead acid battery. It takes 2.25-2.3 volts per cell to
charge it. A 12 Nominal battery is 6 cells so it takes 13.5 to 13.8 to
properly charge. If your 12V adapter puts out less than that it will NEVER

charge. I have several 12V @ 24 AH GelCells that I charge with a HB 1A PS with a wirewound Reostat to set current. I set to about 500 ma and let charge for about 2 days. There is no limit to the maximum charging current in standby use if you charge using a constant voltage of 2.25-2.3 v per cell. If you charge at a higher constant voltage of 2.4-2.5v per cell then limit the charging current to 25% of rated capacity. This info taken from the YUASA spec. sheets.

> Do GEL-Cells have a limited shelf life?

I find that used in UPS's where they are not often discharged they last 3-5 years. If discharged more often they usually last longer 5-7 years.

I'm assuming the the reduced charging time in > the ca7r is due to a higher voltage (ie 13.8
with the engine running

You assume correctly.
73 Jim K4CGY
James C. Owen, III
National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST)
Bldg 225/B360
Gaithersburg, MD 20899
1-301-975-5623

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: "Robert M. Bratcher Jr." <bratcher@krypton.netropolis.net>
Subject: Gravity cells and others?
Message-ID: <199510051708.RAA13382@krypton.netropolis.net>

How does one make Grove cells, gravity cells and other types of glass batteries? What chenicals are needed and where would I buy them? I remember seeing one in a book with 2 electrodes (one was zinc I think) hanging in a glass jar. How many MA's could I get out of one made in a mason jar the kind you can buy in a store for home canning? Might be kinda fun to run my homebuilt tube QRP rigs from although it sure would take up a lot of space for the battery cells. I can just see all those glass jars on shelves in my garage! Were they a lot of work to keep up with?

Robert M. Bratcher Jr.
E-mail to:
bratcher@netropolis.net
Beam me up Scotty!
(I'm a real Star Trek fan)
AND one heck of an old radio nut.
Just love those tube type Boatanchors!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: MODSTEPH@ACS.EKU.EDU
Subject: Re: Halli SX-38
Message-ID: <01HW37EW3B6Q000EGU@ACS.EKU.EDU>

They ain't none. A very poopular and cheap receiver was the S-38, not SX-38 (the "SX" in Hallicrafters models indicated the prsence of a crystal filter). The S-38 is/was a surprisingly stable and sensitive receiver for the cheap thing it was/is. 540 kc to 32.4 mc in four bands, it had noise limiter, BFO on-off, BFO pitch... First model ca 1947, $47.50. S-38A ca 1938, $39.95; S-38B ca 1951, $49.50; S-38C ca 1952, $49.50. All these were essentially
the same receiver with slight changes in the case. S-38E came out in 1958; same innards, redesigned case and slide-rule dial, $54.95.

I have one of these last el cheapos (which ARE decent for SWL and many were used on the air by masochists and students who could afford nothing better - the entire S-38 series, that is) in which someone took the time and trouble to mount a TUNING EYE which works on AM...

Al, N5AIT

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: "Denny Gilbertson" <GILBERTSON@ics.uwex.edu>
Subject: Hallicrafters SX38
Message-ID: <MAILQUEUE-101.951005163550.288@ics.uwex.edu>

According to a list that I have, Hallicrafters made a SX-38.

SX-38 made in 1944 described as a modified SX-28 sold for $225.00

I don't know how many were built, but there is a SX-38 on the list.

Of course the list could be wrong.
Denny
K9JCZ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>
Subject: Heath Q meter/Simpson cap checker mans WANTED

Message-ID: <9510050650.AA04145@kali>

I just received a couple of interesting pieces of gear from Don Merz. One is a Heath Q-meter. Big metal thing...looks like early Heathkit. Model number is QM-1.

Also got a Simpson 383 cap leakage tester. About the size of a lunchbox, and rather nice if it does work. Tests them in circuit somehow -- meter is GOOD in the center and BAD either side, with a knob for adjusting megohms. Pulse voltage up to 900V too. I assume you connect the probes, adjust the meg knob for center scale, and then start increasing the voltage and see if the meter swings. It looks like it would be good for reforming caps, too -- the Heath one I have has a momentary switch for the test position.

I'd like to find manuals on both. Of course, verbal instructions on how to use each one would be almost as good. The Q-meter looks reasonably baffling!

As always, will pay copying/postage costs. My usual manual sources don't have test equipment stuff.

--Andy
wallace@mc.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: "Ray L. Mote" <rmote@rain.org>
Subject: Re: Help needed on T-4/FRC
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951005074917.8067A-100000@coyote.rain.org>

TM 11-820 / T.O. 16-35T4-6 is the manual on this beast, dated 10 November 1944. You have only one rack out of what appears to be a 7-rack multichannel HF rig covering 2-18 Mc (4 channels) and 150-550 Kc (1 channel).
Components consist of:
    Power Rectifier PP-1/FRC (61x24x27.5 in., 690 lbs)
    Modulator MD-1/FRC (61x24x12 in., 510 lbs)
    Transmitter T-4/FRC (61x24x12 in., 330 lbs)
    Transmitter T-5/FRC (61x24x18 in., 450 lbs)
    Low-freq. tuning house (49.25x38.25x39 in., 193 lbs.)
    Oscillator O-2/FRC (size/weight buried in the text?)
    Amplifier AM-2/FRC (also buried)
    Oscillator O-2/FRC (also buried)
Size/weight were given only for "major units". Apparently, the setup used four T-4 and one T-5 units. What a monster setup!

73, Ray (W6RIC) (805) 985-6048

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Henry van Cleef <vancleef@bga.com>
Subject: HP 200CD oscillators
Message-ID: <199510050716.CAA15304@zoom.bga.com>

Arrggh! I have two HP 200CD oscillators that I brought back to life, with the help of a manual that Roy Morgan sent me. One is a very early unit (5Y3, octal tubes), the other fairly late (diodes, miniature tubes). I just happen to like the older unit better. It has good paint, and cleaned up very nicely, after I tapped the bends out of the chassis. I calibrated it a few days ago, and it was almost letter perfect.

My "frequency standard" for calibrating it was the AC line. I used lissajous figures on a Tek 533A scope to find the harmonics of 60 Hz. For those not familiar with this, just tap off the heater supply to the external horizontal amplifier input on the scope. Turn the sweep off by setting the trigger to AC fast external, and the stability maximum counterclockwise, but out of the preset switch detent. Adjust the external horizontal gain so that the trace is the full 10 divisions, for easy viewing. Place the output of the oscillator under test on the vertical input as you normally would. At 60 Hz, the display will be an ellipse. At 120 Hz on the oscillator, the display will have two vertical lobes; at 180, three lobes, etc., on up to 600 Hz. As you approach the N:1 ratios, the display will appear to be rotating, and "right on" is when you've stopped the apparent rotation. The power grid frequency is quite accurate. This gives you ten points across the dial to check tracking. The last few points (480, 540, and 600 Hz.) are fairly close together---be sure you are looking at the correct one. You are using a sine wave for the sweep, so some of the lobes of a ten-lobe display will be merged together at the ends of the sweep so you can't distinguish them. However, with a little experience, you will soon learn to recognize the N:1 displays. There are also stable displays that are quite recognizable for N:K ratios where the ratio works out to a small integer fraction. For example, 90:60 is 3:2 and produces a stable display which is has multiple lobes on both the vertical and horizontal axes, and you will soon learn to recognize and be able to use these.

If you have a second audio oscillator, you can set it up to oscillate at 600 Hz, using lissajous figures, then feed that oscillator's output to the horizontal input in place of the 60 Hz. This puts you in the range specified by the 200CD manual for doing the frequency calibration. The term "lissajous figure" comes from the name of a 19th century French mathematician, Jules Lissajous ("lissa-jew" is the pronunciation), who described the X-Y patterns traced out by various waves beating against each other.

I put the first unit, which I had calibrated, to work, calibrating a Ballantine 311 AC voltmeter. That Ballantine meter needed a lot of work, because someone had done a lot of fussing with the output circuit that feeds the meter. I couldn't find a manual for the thing, but drew enough of a schematic to be able to dope out the intended meter circuit. Somebody had replaced the original meter rectifier diodes, attempted to calibrate the thing, and had given up. It was pretty obvious from the way the meter played that the replacement diodes were germanium (180 mv. knee) and the meter expected silicon (480 mv. knee). Also, on a Ballantine meter, the hairsprings have to be wound to put the meter off scale to the left quite a bit. There is no front panel mechanical zero adjustment---you have to open up the meter movement and slide the adjustments around.

By the time I got the Ballantine meter to read correctly at both ends of the scale, the old 200CD had been singing away for a couple of hours, and I notice the output amplitude jumping around. The longer I ran the thing, the worse it got, and it finally got into motorboating the output level at a very low frequency. Shut it off for an hour, turn it back on, and it is stable as can be for about an hour. It is now out of its cabinet, lying on its side, with some scope probes attached to monitor various points, and it is rock solid after running two hours. Argggh! I hate chasing intermittents. I'll have to get out my heat gun and shake the thing up a bit.

Needless to say, with a bunch of AC meters to calibrate, I need an audio oscillator, so got out the late 200CD and started to calibrate it. Nice super-late model, all the ECO's and mods and so forth, should be a piece of cake to calibrate, right? Wrong! That #$$%# box mistracks the dial like crazy. I got it within 2% (the specification) at all points checked by fudging the two endpoints and doing a lot of creative plate bending of the tuning cap segmented plates. New tubes didn't make any difference. I don't like this, even if it is "in tolerance." I like my units to be "right on," and spend the time to get accuracy. The frequencies come in with the dial 2% high at the ends, 2% low at the midpoint, and is "right one" at about 1/3rd and 2/3rd of the scale. I wonder if I am not missing something here.

--

****
Hank van Cleef vancleef@bga.com vancleef@tmn.com
****

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Grant Youngman <gyoungma@gtetel.com>
Subject: RE: HP 200CD oscillators
Message-ID: <Chameleon.951005065917.grant@nq5t.gtetel.com>

>The term "lissajous figure" comes from the name of a 19th
>century French mathematician, Jules Lissajous ("lissa-jew" is the
>pronunciation), who described the X-Y patterns traced out by various
>waves beating against each other.
>

The scope that Jules was using for his observations must REALLY be vintage...
probably full of those darn black tubular capacitors :-)

Grant Youngman
gyoungma@gtetel.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Henry van Cleef <vancleef@bga.com>
Subject: Re: HP 200CD oscillators
Message-ID: <199510051548.KAA15072@zoom.bga.com>

As Grant Youngman said
>
>
> >The term "lissajous figure" comes from the name of a 19th
> >century French mathematician, Jules Lissajous.
> >
>
> The scope that Jules was using for his observations must REALLY be vintage...
> probably full of those darn black tubular capacitors :-)
>
One of the interesting things is the the methods that Helmholtz used to see audio waves in action. Take a look at his "On the Sensations of Tone" some time. Quite literally, he used flames and mirrors to see audio waves.

As I recall, Lissajous was studying the motion of pendulums. I've seen a demonstration that used an X-Y pendulum and a can of sand with a pinhole on the weight, painting the picture in sand traces.

--

****
Hank van Cleef vancleef@bga.com vancleef@tmn.com
****

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: jcreid@CCGATE.HAC.COM
Subject: HP part no. help
Message-ID: <9509058129.AA812930293@CCGATE.HAC.COM>

Gang,
  I need help identifying an HP umbilical cord. It says "MAINFRAME CONN CABLE ASS'Y 08410-60067". It's about 2' long and has a male 24 pin blue Cinch(like Tektronix plug-ins) connector at one end and the mating female connector at the other. I'm wondering if this might be used as an extension cord for working on 141T plug-ins outside of the analyzer frame. Any HP gurus out there?

-Jim N6SVS
jcreid@ccgate.hac.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Mike Connor <mikec@primenet.com>
Subject: HQ-129X
Message-ID: <199510051747.KAA14680@usr3.primenet.com>

Here's a question for all you boatanchor gurus; I have A Hammarlund HQ-129X receiver in working condition. Front panel paint worn around knobs, but turns on and tunes around. Anybody know what this is worth? Gonna part with it, never use it, just taking up space (lots of it!)
BTW, something must be shorting to the case; it'll give you a tiny zap once in a while if you rest your arm on it...
Thanks,
Mike
NQ7K

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Paul.Thekan@pgtp.varian.com (Paul Thekan)
Subject: Kevin Anderson
Message-ID: <9510060304.AA21774@pgtp.varian.com>

Kevin
             I just wanted to thank you for your kind note. My mail to you kept bouncing back , so this was the only other way I could get through to you.

73
Paul   N6FEG

Paul Thekan - Speaking for Himself
Paul.Thekan@pgtp.varian.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry Keith Mr)
Subject: Knight P-2 Power/SWR Meter FS
Message-ID: <199510060029.TAA12079@wrdis01.robins.af.mil>

Dirty, front panel slightly bent.. But, wouldn't it look good, restored, sitting atop your T-60 or T-150?

$10 + shipping..

73,

Larry, KQ4BY
lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Randyc3@aol.com
Subject: Manuals needed
Message-ID: <951005230353_117348506@mail02.mail.aol.com>

The BEST source of high quality manual copies that I have found is Pete Markavage at the Manual Man. I have purchased 3 manual from him, and his copies are first class.

I have purchased copies from another popular service and was sent a lousy copy of a lousy copy. The pages were not centered, and no attempt was made to clean up the images. I received a refund, although I have to wonder why the product was sent out in the condition it was.

OTOH, Pete's copies were clearly off the original, with very clean and useable pictures.

If you have a choice, call Pete 908 238-8964

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: MODSTEPH@ACS.EKU.EDU
Subject: NC-173

Message-ID: <01HW389M6RNM000EGU@ACS.EKU.EDU>

The NC-173 came out about 1947, for $179.50 new...

73, Al N5AIT

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Dave Horsfall <dave@esi.COM.AU>
Subject: Re: Origin of "HAM"
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951005163830.19233E-100000@eram.esi.com.au>

On Sat, 30 Sep 1995 SlotCity@aol.com wrote:

> "WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS""
> ...
> That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in
> the Congressional Record.

And oddly enough, no record has been found...

--
Dave Horsfall (VK2KFU) | dave@esi.com.au | VK2KFU @ VK2DAA.NSW.AUS.OC | PGP 2.6
Opinions expressed are mine. | D8 15 71 F9 26 C8 63 40 5E 63 5C 65 FC A0 22 99

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: "Robert M. Bratcher Jr." <bratcher@krypton.netropolis.net>
Subject: Other magazine titles
Message-ID: <199510051113.LAA04184@krypton.netropolis.net>

>If you look in QST, you'll see circuit boards for sale for their
>articles, and also in Electronics Now, formerly Electronics Illustrated,
>formerly Radio and Television News, formerly Radio News (did I forget a
>title or two??).

Yes you DID! Radio News and the Short Wave, Radio News and the Short Wave Radio. I own one issue of the first one and two of the other. I think they are about 1938 vintage.

Robert M. Bratcher Jr.
E-mail to:
bratcher@netropolis.net
Beam me up Scotty!
(I'm a real Star Trek fan)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com
Subject: Re: Pre-Sarnoff FM B'dcast Band
Message-ID: <9510051739.AA10272@bock>

Bobbi -- interesting you mention Armstrong generating "linear, high-deviation" FM. According to a 50s/60s book I have on FM (got it for a buck when the local library was cleaning house), Armstrong's original '30s method used phase modulation based on double-sideband AM added to a 90-degree shifted carrier. Vector addition caused the carrier phasor to be shifted backwards or forwards with the audio signal.

It was not very linear unless you limited the modulation to about 30 degrees of phase shift. So maybe he came up with a better method later?

I'm amazed at hard the commercial FM schemes worked to avoid the obvious -- true frequency modulation of the oscillator with a reactance tube.
I think freq stability was a major problem, so everyone wanted to phase-modulate an existing xtal-generated signal.

Anyway Armstrong's orignal PM wasn't so great, but it was ingeneous and he could've invented SSB if he'd stayed at it.

I still don't see how Sarnoff got Armstrong's patents overridden -- maybe Armstrong patented specific methods, and not the *concept* of modulating the frequency? So anyone with a different circuit (reactance tube, ratio detector) could beat him out?

Ham question: In early '50s rx makers were really pushing NBFM for HF.
Tho NBFM came to dominate 2m and up, it died on HF as SSB took over.
My guess is that NBFM died since (1) it didn't reduce the BW as much as SSB, (2) it didn't offer the S/N of SSB, (3) it wasn't as easy to demodulate cleanly on an older comm rx as SSB, and (4) when two SSB hams both talk at once on the freq, others hear their voices like two people talking in a room (nice), while with FM the stronger signal will "capture" the rx or else you get a dose of squishy noise. And maybe (5) ham gear makers wouldn've had to pay patent fees to Armstrong or RCA to use FM (that's "would have").
73, mike k w9nrd

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: dan.poorman@lsj.com (Dan Poorman)
Subject: R392
Message-ID: <9510052339402269@lsj.com>

Okay, I know what R390's are. Could someone please tell me what an R392 is and how (if it even does) compare with the R390 or 390A?

Thanks
Dan, WB8QKR

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com
Subject: R392 Performance is FB
Message-ID: <9510041832.AA10050@bock.ih.att.com>

To those R392 owners who've been reporting low sensitivity, lousy audio, intermod distortion, cross-modulation, etc., I have a few words of advice:

PLEASE ADJUST YOUR SET.

Or whatever's needed to fix it up.

Last nite I finally got power to mine, and am very impressed with sensitivity, selectivities, and audio. Little if any cross-mod in Chicago's "power alley" of AM from 670 to 1000 KC.
Weak BC stations come in better than on the R390As.
I even heard some marine shore station (WSL?) calling CQ on 500 KC.
This set could be the ultimate SWL cruiser.
And it must be the prettiest, neatest interior of any mil radio.

This is one heck of a neat little BA, and so far I'm using wimpy low 24.2 VDC. Hate to say it but it probably does help that I have the transistor plug-in audio module (sorry I was mistaken about this earlier; I took it for a ballast resistor).

I was worried at first since the audio was barely coming out. After jiggling that module it is now full and clear, tho power-wise you can't turn it up very far without distorting, much like a little table radio. Good bass for the AM Oldies.

As suggested, a couple feet of wire on the antenna post makes for FB pickup. However, the Moto switching PS I got with it puts out harmonics of 13 KC clear up to 30 MC, so hooking the outdoor antenna coax to the BNC input is necessary for anything but the BC band.

The strongest local AM station puts the S-meter only about 2/3 of full scale, so maybe 28V or more on the plates will do a little better. Also some of the RF slug rack alignment needs tweaking, since the antenna trimmer doesn't peak on some ranges and sensitivity could be better above 10 MC.

But that's easy stuff. I'm very happy with this "little" set. If you're not with yours, I'm afraid it needs work.

BTW, the xtal oven plugin sure looks the same as an R390A's, but the 1st conversion xtal is not 17 but 11 MC or thereabouts.

Also BTW, that original 24A7 audio output dual pentode must have been a really big bottle, judging from the heat shielded compartment for it and the hold-down clamp. The S-S replacement module barely gets warm.

Question: What for is the hex bolt in the front panel right under the digit windows? I think it seals up a hole used to test the air and water tightness of the cabinet. The factory would apply some air pressure or vacuum to the hole and check for leakage. We have a cedar chest that was so tested for moth-proofness thru its keyhole, or so the maker's tag claims.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: Re. R-392 performance...
Message-ID: <FA5M4725.FA5M4735@mail.admin.wisc.edu>

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

Hello Mike, et. al.

I have to second that statement on the R-392; performance definitely IS very FB! All it takes is a through alignment and the correct power supply voltage. My R-392 (a Stromberg-Carlsen) is one of my favorite receivers.

I kinda got a crash course on the radio last year when I bought one from a BA subscriber.

When I got it, performance was sorta mediocre; it worked, but wasn't anything to jump up and down over. The radio had come with an absolutely beautiful power supply, a commercially made 24 VDC @ 6 AMP "brick" module, obviously meant for the computer industry.

The receiver had come with a pretty good xerox of the manual (ABSOLUTELY AN INDISPENSIBLE ITEM WITH THE R-392!!!), so a "by the book" alignment seemed to be in order.

If you've ever done an alignment on an R-390 or R-390A, you'll be right at home in Little Brother R-392. No real surprises, but there's ONE quirk to look for.

Zeroing the BFO in the middle of the 455 KHz bandpass is a bit of a problem because the BFO coil is inaccessable from the top of the chassis. To get to it, you have to remove the chassis, and pull a shaft that goes THRU the chassis!

This one is kinda critical because of human nature. I was in the military, and I know how folks there think; they'd rather take a shortcut instead of doing the alignment according to the book. In this case, the shortcut is to avoid the extra 30 - 45 minutes required to remove that shaft and chassis (a good military radio tech can spend the time MUCH more profitably in sucking back 3.2 beer at the EM club!).

In the case of my receiver, the BFO had drifted about 4 KHz low. Rather than tear the radio apart and do the job right, somebody along the line had simply realigned the 455 KHz IF strip to match the BFO! Five minutes work versus the better part of an hour? Hey, THAT choice is a no-brainer! I can still hear the radio fixer who did it, rendering the universal Army benediction over his job; "Well, that's close enough for Government work!".   :-)

Well, it wasn't close enough for my shack. That realignment picked up a good bit of overall gain. Still, the radio didn't strike me as up to Collins standards.

After playing with it awhile, the problem hit me; that pretty power supply. It was only 24 volts, but the radio's design center is 28 VDC. I kinda doubted it could be anything that simple, but it was worth a try.

I popped the supply cover, and found the regulator board's voltage adjustment pot. This was tweeked to 28.0 VDC, per my beat up old Simpson.

HOLY CATS!!! Performancewise, we just went from S-38 to 75A4! All of a sudden the rig's Collins heritage came shining thru brightly.

Just to be on the safe side, I tweeked alignment again at the new input voltage (I'm a nut on ABSOLUTE PEAK performance). The only adjustment that had changed appreciably was the S-meter zero set; when the voltage went up, the S-meter needle began digging into the bottom peg to the point where Voice of America / Greenville was barely coming up to the first meter mark, while at the same time the speaker cone was practically being turned into coleslaw.

I have one misgiving about running the rig at 28 VDC tho, especially in the rigs which, like mine, still use the tube output stage instead of the solid state (if you'll pardon the expression) replacement kit.

The first time I opened the cabinet I was horrified by the powerful smell of cooked insulation that came rolling out. I found that the calibrator crystal oven was blown, and I assumed that it's thermostat had welded shut, cooking the oven insulation and generating the stench, which was trapped inside by the hermetically sealed cabinet. Good guess, but no cigar.

I've since discovered that the audio output tube normally runs at temperatures which would make a blast furnace downright envious. It is cooking it's own base and most of the insulating materials in it's immediate vicinity; THAT'S where the smell is coming from!

I've yet to do so, but I for one intend to try out the suggestion of splitting the plate and filiment busses apart at the power connector, and running the plates on 40 VDC. At the same time tho it's my intention to REDUCE the filiment voltage to the design minimum (ie, 22 VDC), just to keep internal temperature down a bit.

BTW, if anyone has an R-392 solid state audio module knocking around that they're not using, I'd like to know about it.

Re. problems with front end intermod:

I can't say that I've ever experienced it here, except for a few MINOR overloading artifacts on the AM broadcast band. That's to be expected tho; I've got a 5 KW directional AM practically in my back yard (daytime only, thank goodness!). Jacking up the plate voltage SHOULD buy you some more dynamic range in the front end, and that will help overloading hassles a lot.

The R-392 is one of those radios that you either love or hate at first sight. In any event it IS one of the most fascinating designs to come out of the Cold War's surplus pile. The rig's great to operate, but a brass plated bitch to service sometimes; those low voltage plate tubes can do some bizarre things.

To all of my fellow R-392 fanciers out there in Modemland, I wish you Good Luck, and bid you to "Keep 'Em Glowing".

Tom "Mr. T." Adams, K9TA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: MICHAEL@ecs.umass.edu
Subject: Re: RE: an angry message
Message-ID: <01HW32N3V4ZS95MRIL@ECS.UMASS.EDU>

Phil Mills, AB5TH wrote:

>As to the rest of Tom's e-mail, I don't think it is worthy of this list.

>How much did he and his pal compensate the family for the magazines and
>other items they salvaged from the house?

It's really depressing to see this sort of comment appear in a group whose most salient characteristic, for me, has been the mutual respect shown other participants. I can live with people defending rapacious real estate developers, rapacious hams, etc, but please, let's leave the ad hominum stuff to the rest of the internet.

Tom, I want to thank you for your post, sad though it was. I know I intend to make an inventory of my BA-holdings to make things easier on my survivors. I really like Stan's idea of offering things to this group first. Hope Jack doesn't mind being the contact person on this.

On a happier note, Damon Cassell's post reminds us that the BA bunch is not necessarily a dying breed, and predictions of a decline in value of this equipment are, at least, premature.

Best wishes to you all for many more years of BA'ing

John Michael   michael@ecs.umass.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: MODSTEPH@ACS.EKU.EDU
Subject: Re: S(X)-38's
Message-ID: <01HW3L9ONIFA000LDV@ACS.EKU.EDU>

The neat thing is I can still learn! Thought I had all the Hallicrafters stuff covered - aparently not! My comments on the S (no"X") - 38 still stand, and now will have to go find more on the SX-38..   :)

73, Al N5AIT

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Philip Gwyinne McCoy <dgnova@eng.umd.edu>
Subject: S-22R
Message-ID: <199510051658.MAA05952@cappuccino.eng.umd.edu>

From: Philip Gwyinne McCoy <dgnova@eng.umd.edu>
Subject: Re: S-22R

>Additionally, does your S-22R have "hold down screws" for the top lid?
>Apparently, my unit has two holes on either corner of the lid in the

>front. Presumably, these screws were to prevent some errant seaman from
>sticking his fingers into the set or stopping the lid from flopping
>around during heavy seas. But in any event, the taps look pretty "factory
>built."

Yes my set has the same two hold down screws. Also note that this set has a gear drive for the tunning condenser. I don't know if I mentioned it, but the wiring diagram will be found in Riders man vol 12. There is an earlier version, the S-22, which had the old silver dial and only 1 If stage. It was listed in the 1939 ARRL handbook and listed for $64.50

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Mark60195@aol.com
Subject: SB-401 mike impedance
Message-ID: <951005141512_116923410@emout04.mail.aol.com>

I purchased a nice looking SB-401 to match my SB-303 Heath receiver at the CFMC hamfest. I havn't had any HF gear for some time and saw this as a great opportunity to get back in. Can't bring myself to buy one of those Japanese "bricks" for more than it would take to populate my shack with neat BA's. (I realize a 401 is pushing it) Anyway, the manual calls for a high impedance mic, all I have available at the time is a 900 ohm dynamic. Will this work or is this a good time to get a new mike? Also having trouble locating RG-62U to connect up to the RX (trying to avoid buying 100' of 100 ohm coax when I only need 8'). Would using 50 ohm RG-174U really cause any problems? (...also got a perfect HQ-170C...joy!)

Regards,
Mark Lakomski
WB9PPL

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: "Cal J. Eustaquio" <ceustaqu@violin.aix.calpoly.edu>
Subject: Sensitivity of Halli receiver on VHF-LO
Message-ID: <Pine.A32.3.91.951005071353.51520A-100000@violin.aix.calpoly.edu>

Halli BA'ers:

Has anyone ever heard of the SX family of receivers (22,23,24,25,28, etc.) perform well above 20Mhz, especially on the 10 meter and on up frequencies? Hallicrafters obviously designed them for those frequencies but from all the reports I have had from various Hallicrafters rcvr owners of this particular family of receivers, I have had nary a one say that those "VHF-LO" frequencies were working fine. Seems like all these rcvrs are pretty deaf to me at that range. Can anyone defy this occurence? I would be very interested. Cal, N6KYR.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Henry van Cleef <vancleef@bga.com>
Subject: Re: Sensitivity of Halli receiver on VHF-LO
Message-ID: <199510051740.MAA27955@zoom.bga.com>

As Cal J. Eustaquio said
>
> Halli BA'ers:
>
> Has anyone ever heard of the SX family of receivers (22,23,24,25,28,
> etc.) perform well above 20Mhz, especially on the 10 meter and on up
> frequencies? Hallicrafters obviously designed them for those frequencies
> but from all the reports I have had from various Hallicrafters rcvr
> owners of this particular family of receivers, I have had nary a one say
> that those "VHF-LO" frequencies were working fine. Seems like all these
> rcvrs are pretty deaf to me at that range. Can anyone defy this
> occurence? I would be very interested. Cal, N6KYR.
>

With the exception of the SX-28, you are looking at prewar receivers. I'll be a bit blunt in saying that my desire for Hallicrafters stuff got thoroughly blunted about 45 years ago when I got my hands on some. Flashy-looking, but mighty cheap inside. I wouldn't expect miracles at 20 meters with most of them, much less anything at 10.

Langford Smith, in the third edition of Radiotron Designers' Handbook, goes over front end design in some detail, pointing out the severe limits posed by the various all-in-one-tube oscillator-mixers available in 1940. One of my questions was why an RME-45 blows smoke around most Hallicrafters receivers at 10 meters, and after having spent some time with the construction of the RME-45 front end, I can see some reasons why.

Some things you can do to get all the performance you can out of an original design:

1. Replace all the capacitors, including the micas. Ground all the cathode and screen bypass capacitors near the socket. Sprague Orange Drops make fine replacements for paper caps, and are much smaller, so you don't have to run the grounds way out into the middle of hell's half acre. For the micas, use NPO ceramics for the small values in the tuned circuits, class II elsewhere.

2. Take out the bandswitch wafers, coils, and trimmer capacitors. Make sure the wafers are squeaky clean. Ceramic wafers would be better

than the cheap switches Hallicrafters used. Make sure the coils are squeaky clean. If the high band coils are solenoid wound on phenolic forms, wash off all the old coil dope with lacquer thinner, dry thoroughly, and redope with GC coil dope thinned 50-50 with lacquer thinner. Use modern ceramic trimmers in the HF circuit, not the old compression micas, and wash off all the old trimmers you are going to re-use so that the ceramic and mica are squeaky clean. Also make sure the stator insulators on the tuning capacitors are squeaky clean.

3. If you are dealing with a 6K8, use 10 mfd. electrolytics parallelled by 1000 pf. ceramics for the bypasses. Langford Smith discusses the need for low impedance feeds to a 6K8.

4. Replace all the old carbon composition resistors in the front end with new film jobs.

5. Use metal octal tubes in the front end. What you are looking for here is button base construction---you don't want tubes that are constructed with a press and have long leads running to the base.

6. I think most of the sets you mention use grid-cap tubes, so you're stuck with that wiring unless you want to do some major redesign and surgery. I like to stick 22 or 33 ohm 1/8 watt squeal stoppers in the grid circuits just to be sure.

7. When you get it all back together, get out your trusty scope and wavemeters, and look very carefully at the signals in the front end. You can scope the plate of the converter stage at the first IF, where you should see only the local oscillator with no signal in the RF. Look very carefully for parasitics. The scope will find low frequency stuff, and some creative sniffing with wavemeters will see high frequency.

Whether the set does or does not perform at various frequencies is something you can settle using a calibrated signal generator. You'll have to actually measure the performance using a known signal source. Langford Smith gives the setups used to test receiver performance.

Once you've got the receiver tweaked up, you'll want to look at getting signal from the antenna into the receiver. You'll need something like an RX bridge to look at the antenna circuit. In general, matching a receiver antenna to the receiver is the same thing as matching a transmitting antenna to the output tank.

Anything beyond this is re-engineering the radio, and you're on your own if you try to do that. For one thing, you're following some people who knew pretty well how to get bang for a buck out of a design, and are likely to find that TANSTAAFL applies---there ain't no such thing as a free lunch----and that "more performance" means "different coils and variable capacitors."

--
****
Hank van Cleef vancleef@bga.com vancleef@tmn.com
****

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com
Subject: Re: Sensitivity of Halli receiver on VHF-LO
Message-ID: <9510052114.AA10328@bock.ih.att.com>

Well, octal and pre-octal tubes aren't real hot above 15 MC, especially the pentagrid converters like 6A7, 6A8, and 6SA7. 6K8 is better, maybe good to 20 MC or more.

Knowing that we'd want to test old rx above 15 MC, the FCC in its wisdom created the 11-meter CB. TUne around 27.0 on either side and you should hear some chitchat, or at least lotsa heterdynes during the day.

The simplest test of an rx above 20 is to listen for any change in noise when you disconnect the antenna. With the antenna you should hear some ignition pulse noise, frying noise from all the SCR light dimmers around, and enough random clicks and pops now and then to differentiate real reception from the rx's internal noise generated in its front end and IFs.

As you can see, a major problem is that 20 MC and up is pretty much a barren wasteland except for CB and occasional 15 and 10 meter band openings. If you can tune up to 47 MC, try your cordless phone, then listen around for the neighbors'.

My SX-42 (later than the rigs you mentioned, and blessed with 7-pin mini RF amps)is serviceable at 47 MC and also in the modern FM band 88-108, but that's with good hot local signals. I've heard 2-way FM (repair trucks, etc.) in the 30-50 VHF-Lo band on little silly-cone sets, but not on the SX-42. Of course I haven't put a proper VHF-Lo antenna on it either.

FWIW, I did recently read a local (20 miles away?) 10-meter SSB net on a real antique, an NC-101X with all octal tubes from 1936. Serious National collectors might wonder what this has to do with a Hallicrafters question hi hi.

I had an SX-25 but it was pretty dead on the bands above 7 MC so it obviously needed work. In fact, I think it pooped out above the BC band.

In the last couple days I've had to work to convicne myself that my R392 was really working above 10 MC. This AM before coming to work I verified reception on the 17 MC SWL BC band, and the CB works OK but not FB at 27.

I believe every ham rx should include 11 meter band just for test purposes.

Anyway, I'm inclined to believe the scuttlebutt about Hallis having no ears above 20m, but trust your own experience -- once there's a 15 or 10 m band opening and you have something to hear. 73, mike k w9nrd

---

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>
Subject: Simpson 383 open...
Message-ID: <9510050731.AA04184@kali>

Just popped open the Simpson cap checker. Looks like I need to find a 7.5V three-terminal battery, Eveready number 717. AES? But before that, it looks like I have to check a bunch of wax caps inside! Ironic.

Tubes are 1B3 and 2050. Weird! Octal...

There's also one of those selenium rectalfryers in there. An IT&T 179548 or 1001, whichever is the real number. Nearby is a pot...looks like that might be for adjusting the pulse amplitude to match the scale. Any ideas on how to replace this with sillycon and a few resistors? I am assuming it's a 900V half-wave rectifier circuit, since the thing is marked PULSE, not ..."DC"......

But it's clean inside, and looks worth getting up and running.

--Andy
wallace@mc.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: "James C. Owen, III" <owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>
Subject: Sorry about that
Message-ID: <58252.owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>

Sent the info on Gel Cell charging to the wrong group. Sorry. K4CGY

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Bruce Haffner <haffner@mcs.net>
Subject: Re: Source for boatanchor manuals
Message-ID: <Pine.BSI.3.91.951005224230.26309A-100000@Venus.mcs.com>

The source for copies of Hallicrafters manuals is Ardco Electronics P.O.
Box 95, Berwyn, Il. 60402
        73,   Bruce   WD9GHK
                    haffner@mcs.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Michael.J.Knudsen@att.com
Subject: Re: SX-25 Super defiant(?)
Message-ID: <9510041700.AA10007@bock.ih.att.com>

The SX-25 is a pretty well-known rx. It was Halli's best until the 28 came out.
But the 25 was only single conversion, with two RF stages.
It was general coverage from BC up to maybe 40 MC, not VHF or FM.
It also had calibrated bandspread for the Ham bands, several selectivity
settings with and without xtal, and push-pull outputs.

Quite different fromt he SX-28; better to think of it as a poor ham's Super Pro.
In the Hallicrafters tradition of using readily available home radio parts,
the 4-gang main and BS tuning caps were built up of two 2-gangers shaft-coupled
end-to-end. I get paid by the hyphen in my postings :-)

I had one that sorta worked but sold it for what I paid ($70) without doing
much work on it. It's a great looking RX, and the horizontal cream-colored
louvers
on the sides give it a THis-Island-Earth early sci-fi hig-voltage look.

As a good-sounding SWL band cruiser it should be pretty good.
I sold the 25 when I got an SX-42 -- not as antique, but really classic,
and the same internal architecture (single conversion, 2 RFs, but Mr Halligan
finally broke down and ordered honest 4-gang tuners).

Moore's book does show the 25 and its tube lineup. When I first joined this
List everyone kept telling me to buy a Moore's. I did, wondered where this book
had been all my life, and now I urge you to do the same. Not cheap but
you'll love it. 73, mike k w9nrd

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: "Integration Area" <integrat@usr.com>
Subject: Re: TCS production & orange Navy tags
Message-ID: <9509058129.AA812910981@robogate.usr.com>

>Anyone know of the original design production date of the TCS
>transmitter/receiver set. From past ER articles, I read that in order
>to compete in the AWA wireless contests, you must have prewar
>designed or built radios. I read someplace in Ray Moore's book that

>the TCS set was built around 1940 or so. If that is the case, this
>may be in the running to use in a contest. Anyone have any ideas.
>73's.
>Cal, N6KYR.

I have a crystal from the a TCS (original series). It is a little smaller than the standard war issue type and has rounded edges, but it does have the same footprint. A big brass tag reads...

Navy Type COL-40068
Crystal Holder
s/n 27891
Channel 3045 Cut A Crystal Frequency 1522.5 KC +-.005%
Temp Coefficient .0003 %/C 25C
made for Navy Department Bureau of Ships
by Collins Radio Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Contract NOs-84440 Date Apr 16, 1941

I think this is the original contract, as it falls in line with other transmitters (TCR was contracted 18 June 1941 under NOs-87455, just two months away). Who knows when the TCSs were released, but I doubt they were around for the Pearl Harbor attack. The common TCSs (-5s, -12s, -14s) were contracted during the war.

Does anyone else have stuff from the original TCSs?

>I am looking for some information on a TMC CV-591/URR...
>...
>Last but not least, this unit has an orange equipment tag, I've never
>seen that before, can anyone shed light on this?
>
>Thanks,
>Sean

The Navy was fond of using orange tags for equipment from the late forties and fifties. I have also seen a red tag on a TED-1 transmitter. I have no idea why they liked orange, as it seems a little hard to read. Perhaps they had some sort of color coding.

William Donzelli   (about time I get on this thing)
integrat@usr.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: doonan@cordmc.dnet.etn.com (DENNIS DOONAN X6916 (KG9DO))
Subject: telegraph power???
Message-ID: <9510051607.AA19382@etn.com>

One of the students in a Ham Radio class asked a question I could not answer, so I thought it may be of marginal interest to this group.

Back in the old days (1870s), how were telegraph lines/sustems powered? I assume a battery at each station, but were there "repeaters" along the line? Next, what type of battery was it? Wet cell in a glass tank?? And where would it have been located?? In the telegraphers office, by the lines post, etc.

There are some sharp kids in this class (and 2 sharp grandfathers) so I would like to give them a straight answer.

Thanks.

Dennis, KG9DO doonan@cordmc.dnet.etn.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Re: telegraph power???
Message-ID: <199510051649.JAA16308@hobbes.UCSC.EDU>

The batteries back in the old days were a wet chemical battery. In a cylindrical glass jar there is copper sulfate in the bottom and zinc sulfate floating on top of it. The electrode for the bottom is a copper wire that is insulated where it comes up the side of the jar so it only contacts the copper sulfate. The other electrode is a zinc casting called a crowfoot because of its shape. It has a hook that hangs over the edge of the jar and dips into the zinc sulfate. For some reason beyond my understanding these batteries work right when they are delivering current all the time, so you want to short circuit them rather than open circuit them when they are not in use.

Anyway, telegraph systems are operated in series connection, usually ground return. The advantage of this is that you only need batteries at one or both ends of the wire; intermediate stations don't need batteries. That's true for shorter lines. For longer lines the sounders might not be sensitive enough, so they used a relay to operate a sounder on a local circuit. In that case the local sounder is only about 4 ohms resistance so one or two cells of battery are enough to operate it. Whereas the main line battery might be enough cells for 100-200 volts to overcome resistance in the line. So at the end offices where you have all those cells you can have persons to take care of the batteries, which can get to be a lot of work.

To learn all about this, let me suggest you send $8 check or M.O. to L. A. Bailey, 909 S. Evergeeen Ave., Clearwater, FL 34616 for his reprint of the Bunnell Learners Manual of 1884. I have a copy of this and it is really a beautiful reproduction, looks just like I would expect a 111 year old manual and catalog to look when it was new.

(O.K., no vacuum tubes in this article, but its still about boatanchors.)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Al Klase <alklase@village.ios.com>
Subject: Re: telegraph power???
Message-ID: <Pine.BSD.3.91.951005135232.18343D-100000@village.ios.com>

> For some reason beyond my
> understanding these batteries work right when they are delivering current
> all the time, so you want to short circuit them rather than open circuit
> them when they are not in use.

The zinc sulphate and copper sulphate solutions won't stay separated unless current is passing thru the cell.

73 - Al - N3FRQ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: rdkeys@unity.ncsu.edu
Subject: Re: telegraph power???
Message-ID: <199510051808.OAA26801@cc05du.unity.ncsu.edu>

>
>   One of the students in a Ham Radio class asked a question I could not
> answer, so I thought it may be of marginal interest to this group.
>   Back in the old days (1870s), how were telegraph lines/sustems powered?
> I assume a battery at each station, but were there "repeaters" along the
> line? Next, what type of battery was it? Wet cell in a glass tank?? And
> where would it have been located?? In the telegraphers office, by the
> lines post, etc.
>   There are some sharp kids in this class (and 2 sharp grandfathers) so I
> would like to give them a straight answer.
>   Thanks.
> Dennis, KG9DO doonan@cordmc.dnet.etn.com
>

Traditional power was by Grove cells or by gravity cells (sometimes called crow's foot cells due to the construction of the lower electrode (don't remember the polarity right off) which looked like the foot of a crow. Each cell was about 1 volt in potential, and could deliver several hundred milliamperes of current for a considerable time. The Grove cells used sulphuric acid as the electrolyte. The gravity cells (early edison cells were glass 2 gallon battery jars with white porcelain tops that were simple gravity cells) used copper sulphate and I forget what other chemicals, right off, but have edison's manual at home. I will try to remember to check it tonight. Others may know rigih off the top of the head.

My dad told me that when he was running his first spark set (using a model T ford spark coil) back in 1914, he used old telegraph crows foot gravity batteries for power, under the table he used for operating, back on grandma's back porch. The cells had to season, on short circuit, overnight when first poured to develop the electrolyte properly. Then they could be used for several weeks before needing replenishment. The gravity batteries were very prone to creepage of electrolyte byproducts up and over the tops of the cells, making a genuine mess. Usually, the cells were placed in a leaden lined tray to keep creepage spills to a minimum. Dad had to wipe his down to keep grandma happy.

Usual circuits had cells at the rate of one cell per 20 miles of circuit. Local circuits used relays to actuate circuits with local sounders off the main line. Local circuits usually ran on about 6 volts (that would be 4-6 cells).

The usual location for cells was at the ends of the line, although each waystation where relays were used would have their own set of cells, for local use, and sometimes additional ones for mainline use.

For an interesting insight see Alfred Vail's 1847 publication, ``The American Electro Magnetic Telegraph'' or Jone's 1852 publication, ``Historical Sketch of the Electric Telegraph''. These works are to be added to the Boatanchors on-line historical radio documentation. Our fearless leader/mailkeeper should have the Vail work. The other one I will finish rekeying in a month or so, as time permits. These will only print on postscript printers, because of extensive illustrations. I may run off a few for those that can't print postscript stuff.

Vail's book is Morse's original publication of the telegraph and it reads like a tract to sell equipment out of a shop in New York.

Jone's book is a very detailed description and investigation into the great legal battles and scientific discoveries that lead up to the patents and rights of the telegraph by all parties concerned.

Another good work to study is Edison's handbook on the telegraph published in about 1880 or so. If I get time, I will try to rekey that one too, and add it to the archives. This has nice details of the various telegraph units, and the batteries, and how to set them up, in addition to a short course in instruction on American Morse.

Ahh, such simplicity.... beats 1000 device IC's any day....(:+}}.....

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob

p.s. Some food for thought and contention.....

Who invented the telegraph key, and when was it first used?

The telegraph key was not invented by Morse, but by Ampere....(:+}} (See the Annales de Chemie et Physique, Paris, 1820, vol. XV, p. 73). Reference: Jones, Alexander, 1852, ``Historical Sketch of the Electric Telegraph: Including its Rise and Progress in the United States'', New York, George P. Putnam, 10 Park Place, pages 74-75. The text was presented as testimony in evidence in defence, F.O.J. Smith vs. Hugh Downing, et al., Boston, 1850, by one Dr. Wm. E. Channing. Now even I am gonna have to run to the stacks and check this one out.....(:+}}.....ZUT DE NA4G/Bob

```
**************************************************************************
*  73 TU SU VA DE NA4G             ``Boat Anchor Bob'', an ol' CW fart.  *
**************************************************************************
*  Morse has been in the family for over 100 years.                      *
*  Morse radiotelegraphy (Spark/CW) has been in the family since 1914.   *
**************************************************************************
*  May you have fair winds and following seas on your watch at the key.  *
**************************************************************************
```

```
From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct  5 15:58:00 1995
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>
Subject: Re: telegraph power???
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951005115708.9149A-100000@crl.crl.com>
```

Even today in some cities there exists alarm system that still function like the telegraph systems of ole. The alarm is a series of dots sent on a dc telegraph line.   The drive voltage is typical 130 to 150 vdc. I think the telephone people will tell you such voltages are illigal but they still exist. The total impedance in the circuit is about 20,000 ohms. Special relays we called them pony relays were used to received the signals. The circuit uses ground as a return. One interesting item is that the line maybe be broken and or shorted and still allow the message to be received. (It acts as a three wire system). The messages which are a series of dots and spaces are normally sent via a wind up motor.

At one time the systems in Boston actually sent American Morse. I do not know todays status.   The orginial system actually punched holes in paper to verify received codes.   Today some of the same system are connected to computers, but the 130 vdc and 20,000 ohm lines still exist.

If you require more info drop me some e-mail and I will dig out my old design manuals.

de stan ak0b
e-mail via randyw@crl.com

```
From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct  6 00:39:00 1995
From: "Dick Dillman" <ddillman@igc.apc.org>
Subject: Re: telegraph power???
Message-ID: <199510052323.QAA20763@igc3.igc.apc.org>
```

> Even today in some cities there exists alarm system that still function
> like the telegraph systems of ole. The alarm is a series of dots sent
> on a dc telegraph line.

This system still exists, at least here in San Francisco, for fire alarm boxes. The clockworks in the alarm box drive a cam which taps out the box number. This rungs in at the Central Fire Alarm station. There's even a key in the box to allow maintenance people to test the system.

I must tell you about the original Central Fire Alarm station, the inside of which was (sob!) demolished about 10 years ago. All the walls, beautiful marble panels were mounted with highly polished brass instruments which received the box signals and printed them out on tape inkers, spring wound. All kinds of knife switches, relays and plug boards abounded. The operators had two telegraph keys to relay the call the the stations. These two lines were called the "tapper" and the "joker" for reasons lost in the mists of time. The best part was an enormous brass meter on a hinge that swung out from the marble panel with the title "STATION GALVANOMETER" cast in the brass case. Operators could use the plug board to connect the meter to various circuits. The second best part was the last remaining 5 cent Coke machine (in 6oz. bottles, of course). A visitor displaying the appropriate respect might be allowed to actually insert a nickel in the venerable machine and enjoy an ice cold Coke while sitting in a swivel oak chair discussing the fine points of DC signaling. Sigh!

Best Regards,

Dick Dillman/WPE2VT
<ddillman@igc.apc.org>
San Francisco

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: "Gable, Edward M" <emg@rfpo2.rfc.comm.harris.com>
Subject: Thanks, Tube Help
Message-ID: <3073EFB0@smtpgate.rfc.comm.harris.com>

Wow, what a great response - nice helpful group
here.   Result: 5814A = Ruggedized 12AU7.
Thanks & 73, Ed K2MP @ Rochester
emg@rfc.comm.harris.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: "R. Dennis Gibbs" <dgibbs@rational.com>
Subject: RE: Thanks, Tube Help
Message-ID: <Chameleon.4.01.951005111751.dgibbs@meninx.ppp.verdix.com>

>
>Wow, what a great response - nice helpful group
>here.   Result: 5814A = Ruggedized 12AU7.
>Thanks & 73, Ed K2MP @ Rochester
>emg@rfc.comm.harris.com
>

I have a related question. There are many variants of the 12AU7. I know that a 5963 is a version of the 12AU7 that was used in early computers. These were optimized to be able to withstand long periods with filament voltage applied, but no plate voltage.

What exactly is the difference between a 6189 and a 5814A? I know both are versions of the 12AU7, but what are the practical differences? In what applications would one be better over the other? Can you safely substitute a 6189 for a 5814A, and vice versa?

I know there are other variations of the 12AU7 as well, but these are the ones I remember off hand. I know I can look up how the operational characteristics differ in a tube manual, but my tube manuals don't indicate which versions are better for some applications and not others.

Dennis Gibbs
dgibbs@rational.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: rbsingl@rs6000.cmp.ilstu.edu (rodger singley)
Subject: Those of us under 40
Message-ID: <9510052225.AA313751@rs6000.cmp.ilstu.edu>

At the age of 35, I am probably just starting to really indulge my fascination with boat anchors. One of the attractions of the house I bought in the country was, in addition to 3.5 acres of antenna farm and no neighbors within a mile, the existence of a nice 2 story barn with about 4500 square feet of floor space in which to collect ba's. My first radios were anchors, when I was WN5NSC in 1974 I started with a Viking Valiant and SX-62A. The Valiant came with one rock which I used with the SX-62a to calibrate the VFO in the Valiant. Of course, the true frequency of the xtal was 25 khz away from marked value so my first contact was someone telling me I was out of the Novice band! I expected a personal visit from the FCC at any time (brought back terrifying memories of when I was 5 and barely able to read and I accidently tore off one of those "do not remove under penalty of law" tags from a bed! I kept expecting the police to show up). A later upgrade to an SX-101A was a quantum leap in performance for me.

After correcting my calibration error, all I had to do was remember not to touch the hot terminal of the straight key - cathode keying can hurt! Makes me think of the Japanese scope manual I had which carried the following warning about sawtooth out connector "touching this terminal will result in a high voltage shock which some individuals may find painful", wonder who wouldn't?

If I had started ham radio with a "YaeKenCom X1000ultimate" I sincerely

doubt I would have strong or fond memories of my start in the hobby, i.e.
how many of us fondly recall the first cell phone call we made? So, I think
many of us who grew up with these radios, even after they were already
obsolete, will continue to collect and use them. And there seems to be a
strong desire among many today to return to the "simpler days of the past"
even if we were not alive during those simple days.

Rodger
WQ9E

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Mark60195@aol.com
Subject: Re: Those of us under 40
Message-ID: <951005231615_117362401@emout04.mail.aol.com>

I second the opinions that BA aren't for just for "ol timers" and
don't expect them to fade away. I received my novice in '74 and
my first station was a T-60 and an Allied A-2516(?) that I bought
from a friend for $100. At the age of 15, with little money there wasn't
much more I could afford. I had the pair for a couple of years and it
was the most fun I ever had with amateur radio. I traded up to a HQ-170
and a T-150 which was just as good. After a year or two I traded both
for a Tempo One XCVR. CW became too simple (not enough knobs I
guess) and phone was way too easy to be fun. After a couple years
I lost interest and traded the Tempo for a 10M hard drive (yeah, dumb!).
I could probably afford a new japanese wonder box now but why repeat
the same mistake? Darn things don't even warm up the room. So at
35 I just purchased a SB-303/401 and another HQ-170. Now I gotta
find a nice old Viking transmitter and I'll be all set! Maybe I'll trade the
Icom IC-2000 I bought a couple months ago. Is it me or has 2M really
gone down the tubes (sorry...). Anybody want to trade a Viking for
a 10Mb hard drive? :-)

Regards,
Mark Lakomski
WB9PPL
(outta
retirement!)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: dsa@apollo.hp.com
Subject: Those of us under 40...
Message-ID: <199510052047.PAA21540@uro.theporch.com>

Hi All,

First of all, I want to say that I'm new to this list. I just joined today for that matter, so I hope you'll forgive me if I'm violating boatanchor's protocol. Anyway, I've been reading what appears to be the tail end of a thread on the young having no appreciation for BAs. Well, I for one am only 33. I own currently one boatanchor, a receiver, National NC-173T (with manual). Dad bought it for me at an estate sale about 25 years ago for $20. I love this old thing. Still works great. Have never had to do anything to it. It's a great CW receiver. That radio is one of the reasons I joined this list in the first place. Besides, I grew up in a house with boatanchors. Dad (K1EYB) had several old radios in his shack. Hallicrafters and "Globe Scout" xmitters and a Drake receiver (sorry, forgot the models).

Anyway, I just thought I'd offer another youthful voice in support of the ole boat anchors. BTW, anyone know how old my NC-173 might be? There is no mfg date that I can find, nor is there a print date on the manual.

Later,
-Dale

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: Scott_Johnson-AZAX60@email.sps.mot.com
Subject: RE>Those of us under 40...
Message-ID: <"Macintosh */PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/"@MHS>

RE>Those of us under 40... 10/5/95

Ya know, I'm 31 and I have had literally tons of BA stuff since I was old enough to lift the stuff. I used to bring old avionics junk home in my wagon. I presently own about 1500 square feet of BA's stuffed to the ceiling. The BA sickness knows no bounds of age, wealth , sex, or race. The only limiter is the always understanding spouse who has to explain that maybe new furniture should take precedence over that "spare" T-368. I'm married to a wonderful woman who thinks my hobby is a bit odd, but tolerates it as long as the stuff stays in my "playhouse". I think BA collecting is safe until the end of time, which may be soon if my collection reaches critical mass.

73, Scott KC7BGE

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: GALBRAITH CHRISTOPHER <99galbra@lab.cc.wmich.edu>
Subject: Re: Those of us under 40...
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9510051950.A8565-0100000@grog>

Yep, me too :)
I'm 23, got a Ranger I, Viking II, 75A2, R-390A, RME4350A, HW-16, and countless bottles, old lit, etc...used to have a Drake TR7-line...way too modern! I liked the C-line much better, too. Plus, I don't do SSB anymore (til I find the CE tx and another rx!)

Taste and fondness of quality isn't always a function of age!

73, Chris KA8WFC

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: "Gable, Edward M" <emg@rfpo2.rfc.comm.harris.com>
Subject: Tube Data Help, pls
Message-ID: <3073BEF1@smtpgate.rfc.comm.harris.com>

Good news is I've been given a box full of Raytheon CK5814A tubes. They are 9 pin miniature and the structure looks like 12AX7/12AU7 variety.   Bad news is that I can't find any reference to 'em.   Anybody out there able to find some info. TIA
Ed K2MP @ Rochester
emg@rfc.comm.harris.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: jproc@worldlinx.com
Subject: RE: Tube Data Help, pls
Message-ID: <Chameleon.4.01.2.951005101943.jproc@>

>Good news is I've been given a box full of Raytheon
>CK5814A tubes. They are 9 pin miniature and the
>structure looks like 12AX7/12AU7 variety.

Edward,

I have a tube sub chart which shows the 5814A to be a military/industrial version of a 12AU7.

Regards,

Jerry Proc VE3FAB
E-mail: jproc@worldlinx.com
Radio Restoration Volunteer
HMCS Haida, Toronto Ontario

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: Damon Z Cassell <dcassell@lynx.dac.neu.edu>
Subject: Re: U.S. Callsign oddities
Message-ID: <199510051324.JAA00530@lynx.dac.neu.edu>

> > And they still are, no?
> No. Even before, the 1x2 Extra class Vanity Calls of long ago
> permitted x#Xx, and the 2x1 calls certainly had X suffix...
> K4XG - Tom Neill a friend from down the road
> W4XS - Jim Hayes, another local pal
> AG4X - Bill Cone of Acworth, Georgia who used his call like a
>   broadsword and mowed down the DX - "Atlanta Georgia Four X-Ray!"

Actually, the "experimental" callsigns are occasionally still issued. But since all the W#XXX format callsigns have been issued to hams, they simply throw in some prefix that has not.

For example, no more than three or four years ago, experimental stations with callsigns such as KM2X?? (I don't remember the full callsign) were often heard above the top of the AM broadcast band around 1620 - 1700 KHz. These experimental stations were used while the FCC was toying with the concept of expanding the AM broadcast band to 1700 KHz (which they did).

--Damon

Damon Cassell, WU1T
dcassell@lynx.dac.neu.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 11:24:00 1995
From: KC5IJD@aol.com
Subject: Wanted: I-135 manual

Message-ID: <951005102702_116771627@emout05.mail.aol.com>

I recently acquired an I-135 test set (part of test equipment for the BC-611s) and need a manual for it. It came as somewhat of a bonus when I purchased two BC-611Bs (both in excellent condition).

Have been searching for a good pair of BC-611s for some time. Feel very fortunate to get these and even more so to have acquired the test set.

Would appreciate any help.

Joseph W Pinner
Lafayette, LA
KC5IJD
EMail: kc5ijd@aol.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Thu Oct 5 15:58:00 1995
From: Mark60195@aol.com
Subject: whatza SX-38?
Message-ID: <951005141933_116923389@mail04.mail.aol.com>

Ran into a Hallicrafters SX-38 at a flea market a few days ago. The owner was asking $50 and knew nothing about the radio besides it being old. He said it would be OK to plug it in and try it out (yeah, I know!) and when we did nothing happened. No glowing tubes, no nothing. Probably could have picked it up for $10 but wasn't sure it was worth major work. Did I pass up a worthwhile restoration? (Did get a perfect Philco 46-480 BC/SW for $75!)

Regards,
Mark Lakomski
WB9PPL

From boatanchors@theporch.com Fri Oct 6 00:39:00 1995
From: post@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu
Subject: Re:whatza SX-38?
Message-ID: <009976D2.F4CE59E1.2@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu>

Ohio University Electronic Communication

```
   Date:  05-Oct-1995 05:45pm EST

     To:  Remote Addressee                     ( _MX%"boatanchors@theporch.com" )

   From:  Richard Post                               Dept:  Instructional Media
Services
          POST                                     Tel No:

Subject:  Re:whatza SX-38?
```

>Ran into a Hallicrafters SX-38 at a flea market a few days ago.
>The owner was asking $50 and knew nothing about the radio
>Probably could have picked it
>up for $10 but wasn't sure it was worth major work.

The $50 asking is about one and a half to twice what these normally go for in average -good- to very good condition in this part of the USA. For $10 it would have been a bargain. This is an "All-American" series AC-DC set. If the tubes did not light, chances are excellent one of the tubes had an open filament. Other possibilities (decreasing likelihood) include a dirty power switch (cleanable most of the time) or a dirty tube contact.

>Did get a perfect Philco 46-480 BC/SW for $75!

I have never had to pay that much for entertainment 1946 sets. This one must have been special, but I speak without having looked it up in Bunis. In this area, we usually pay less than half of Bunis unless the set is very special.

73 de Rich <post@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu>

Received: 05-Oct-1995 05:46pm